

Jodi L. Daub

From: min zheng <minz32@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2016 8:43 PM
To: Planning Commission
Cc: Council; Jason Rogers
Subject: Recent testimony before council

I am a citizen of the United States. I have lived in Redmond for 15 years.
I have noticed the testimony of Dell Berg in front of the council. And also a few others who testified on Tuesday evening. I believe they all made very good points! Please make sure all 8 points in Dell's testimony get adequate attention and analysis! I oppose any Pot Store in Redmond.

Thank you.
Min

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Jodi L. Daub

From: dellberg@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2016 11:03 PM
To: Planning Commission; Council; Jason Rogers
Subject: regressive taxation

Will opening marijuana retail stores and taxing sales at 37% help or hurt Washington's reputation for regressive taxation. I believe it will hurt. This is an issue that is not on the planning commission's matrix of issues, yet it deserves to be looked at. The issue of inequality and the gulf between those well off in our society compared to those on the lower tier is an issue of consequence. It very well could be that opening stores and increasing consumption of marijuana in Washington State will worsen the divisions in our society, not heal them. As a result, I would ask the council to reject this pathway as destructive, not a constructive action for our society. Thank you,

Dell Berg

note: find below the newspaper piece showing Washington State is most regressive tax state in the nation.

Strange Bedfellows -- Politics News

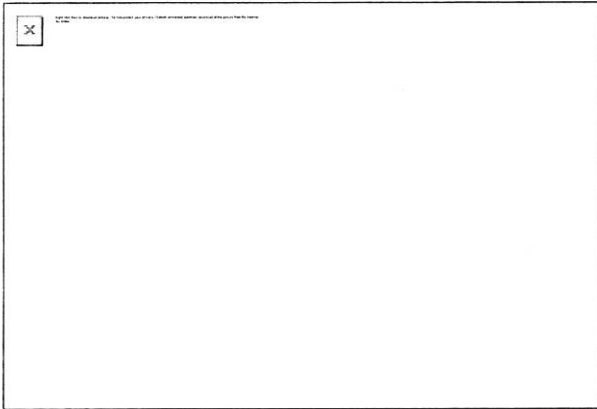
Washington tax structure is most regressive in US, study says

By Joel Connelly on January 14, 2015 at 4:04 PM

Washington frequently basks in "Top Ten" lists of America's most livable cities, retirement havens or best places to do business. But the Evergreen State ranks rock-bottom in a new "Terrible Ten" list of states with the nation's most regressive tax system.

According to the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, the state taxes its poorest residents at 16.8 percent — by relying on the state sales tax — while taxing the top 1 percent of income earners at only 2.4 percent.

"In recent years, multiple studies have revealed the growing chasm between the wealthy and everyone else: Upside down state tax systems didn't cause the growing income divide, but they certainly exacerbate the problem," said Matt Gardner, executive director of the Institute.



Gov. Jay Inslee: "Our lowest paid workers pay nearly 17 percent of their income in taxes while the top 1 percent pay less than 3 percent."

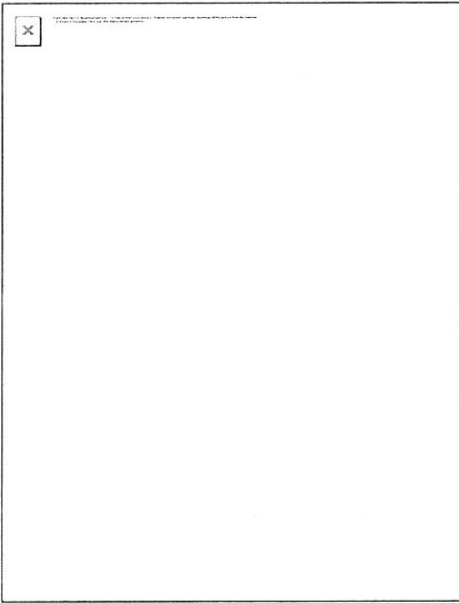
The rest of the "Terrible Ten" list includes Texas, Florida, South Dakota, Tennessee, Kansas, Indiana, Arizona, Illinois and Pennsylvania.

Looking at all 50 states, and the District of Columbia, the Institute found:

—"The lower one's income, the higher one's overall effective state and local tax rate. Combining all state and local income, property, sales and excise taxes that Americans pay, the nationwide average effective state and local tax rates by income group are 10.9 percent for the poorest 20 percent of individuals and families, 9.4 percent for the middle 20 percent, and 5.4 percent for the top one percent;

—"Heavy reliance on sales and excise taxes are characteristics of the most regressive state tax systems. Six of the 10 most regressive states derive roughly half to two thirds of their tax revenue from sales and excise taxes, compared to a national average of roughly two-thirds.

—"Virtually every state tax system is fundamentally unfair, taking in a much greater share of income from low- and middle-income families than from wealthy families."



Popular GOP Gov. Dan Evans tried twice for a state income tax: The voters said no.

Washington voters have long rejected a state income tax. Popular Republican Gov. Dan Evans tried twice in the late 1960s and early 1970s, losing by 2-to-1 margins. More recently, a proposed income tax on the state's wealthiest residents went down to a thumping defeat.

Still, Gov. Jay Inslee has seized on the inequality issue, asking the Legislature to tax capital gains for high-income earners, and to impose a pollution [Bedfellows -- Politics News](#)

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Jodi L. Daub

From: dellberg@aol.com
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2016 9:39 AM
To: Planning Commission; Council; Jason Rogers
Subject: Marijuana

On the issue of judging public sentiment, I believe the November ballot is best. A phone survey may be problematic in terms of statistical validity. The reason is that so many households have two income earners. Thus, no one is home to answer the phone during business hours. After hours, the two may be tired and not wish to deal with a survey phone call. Validating the results of such a survey and confidence levels would be difficult at best.

On the issue of OneRedmond, I see this question has been raised before. It is explained as being in partnership with this City, although details on the partnership were not discussed. Would be interested in finding out more about this. Does this mean OneRedmond is also subject to the open meeting law? If OneRedmond has received compensation from an interested party, does this place the City, as a partner of OneRedmond in a conflicted position?

On the issue of regressive taxation, the State has already headed down this road. The marijuana tax has got to be the most regressive of all the taxes that the state currently collects. Our society thrives on the promise of upward mobility! The City of Redmond should not put another roadblock in the way of those who want to better their lives.

On the issue of addiction, I wonder if the rate advertised in previous testimony is correct. I recall it as 1 in 9. That would be 11%. If we open stores and the volume of pot triples over the next 5 years, those who are addicted will also triple. Does the council believe that this will make Redmond a better city? What if we find new strains of marijuana which are even more addictive? If the addiction rate goes to 25%, what does that do to estimates of policing cost and traffic accidents? I guess they both will go up. Do we really understand the risks that the city will be taking here?

As always, thanks for your help and hard work on this question.

Dell

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Jodi L. Daub

From: Anika Van Ry
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2016 4:53 PM
To: Jason Rogers
Subject: FW: Written comments from Kaleafa regarding Marijuana Retail Store opening in Redmond
Attachments: Redmond Comments.docx

FYI.

Anika Van Ry

Administrative Specialist, Mayor's Office | City of Redmond

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From: Bill Widmer [<mailto:bill@kaleafa.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2016 4:50 PM
To: Planning Commission; MayorCouncil
Subject: Written comments from Kaleafa regarding Marijuana Retail Store opening in Redmond

Dear Council Members and Planning Department,
Attached are comments for your consideration regarding zoning for Retail Marijuana.
Sincerely
Bill Widmer

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Jodi L. Daub

From: Planning Commission
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2016 11:46 AM
To: Jason Rogers
Subject: FW: Do we need a pot store in Redmond?

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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From: Hui L [<mailto:lalasis2003@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 10:16 PM
To: Council; Planning Commission
Subject: Do we need a pot store in Redmond?

Dear Sir or Madam,

Even if some people voted yes to legalize the pot doesn't mean they want the pot store to open in the City they live in and doesn't mean they already thought about the danger of those pot cookies/ candies to children. So many marijuana products were not properly labeled and the recent news of a teenager in Colorado died after consuming an entire marijuana cookie is a tragedy and we don't want it to happen in our city.

If the store is open in the pancake house area, it is so close to the trails and parks. Some people who buy the pot products might just go to the park or trail to get high and that poses danger to public safety.

The eastside already has pot stores in Kirkland and Bellevue, do we really need that many pot store? Are we trying to encourage the pot usage? I hope the wise man's choice is no.

Thank you.
Hui

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